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(54) Title: METHOD FOR ACCELERATING GROWTH RATES

(57) Abstract

Upon subjection to a low energy electrical field of varying and critical frequencies and low field strengths the growth rate of an organism disposed in a growth medium exhibits a significant increase over power-off controls.

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METHOD FOR ACCELERATING GROWTH RATES

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a method for increasing the growth rate of biosystems. More particularly, this invention provides a method for accelerating the growth rates of organisms which involves the use of low 5 energy electrical fields produced by a unique combination of applied low field strengths and extra-low electromagnetic frequencies.

2. Prior Art

- The effects of electrical fields on the stimulation 10 of growth and regeneration in various biosystems have been studied. Mcelhaney et al., J. Biomech. 1:47 (1968) disclose the use of electrical fields to stimulate bone formation. The use of applied magnetic
- fields to accelerate growth in microorganisms is shown 15 in U. S. Patent 3,871,961. Sewage decomposition promoting microorganisms are stated in U.S. Patent 3,336,220 to exhibit increased activity after an alternating electric current was passed through the sewage.
- MacKenzie in New Scientist, 28 January 1982, pp. 20 217-220 reports on electrical fields which develop in connection with loss of limbs and which are implicated in the resultant regeneration phenomena. The effects of electrical fields on movement in an amoeba was
- 25 reported in Science, <u>187</u>:357 (1975).

Much of the work performed studying the effects of electrical fields on microorganisms has involved the study of mutagenesis and also sterilization, e.g., see Coate, W. B. et al. 1970, "Project Biological Effects Test Program Pilot Studies Final Report." Hazilton Laboratories, Inc., available from NTIS as AD717409, U. S. Patent 3,876,373 and Food Tehnol, 8:361 (1954).

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It is an object of this invention to provide a unique and practical methodology utilizing low energy electrical fields to accelerate growth rates when applied to a living biosystem. It is a further object of this invention to increase such growth rates without producing mutants and without a measurable increase in the temperature of the biosystem. It is a still further object of this invention to provide an energy efficient, low cost and effective process for significantly reducing the growth cycle time of a biosystem.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

These and the other objects of this invention are accomplished by a process for accelerating the growth rate of a live organism which comprises disposing the organism in a suitable growth or nutrient medium and 15 subjecting the organism to an alternating electrical field at an electrical field strength and frequency combination which causes the growth rate of the organism to increase over the growth rate of the organism when not subjected to the alternating electrical field. 20 The desired increase in growth rate is independent of current density and is exhibited at varying frequencies and electrical field strengths. However, as far as has been tested there appear to exist certain critical frequencies, or regions of frequencies, at which acceler-25 ated growth occurs and outside of which there is minimal or no effect. Also at such effective frequencies there exists a threshold electrical field strength below which there is no effect. It has also been found that, within the ranges of effective frequencies and 30 field strengths, the resultant electrical field is a low energy field which does not produce mutants of the organism; nor is there a measurable increase in the temperature of the biosystem. Furthermore, in the preferred ranges of effective frequencies and strengths 35 there is no electrolysis of the growth medium.

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found that the effective frequencies and voltages are independent of current density. However, there is a practical limitation on current density in that one would not employ currents that adversely affect the biosystem. Tests have been conducted at less than 0.1 mA (milliamp) and it is believed that absolutely no current is required to effectively increase growth rates, so long as effective field strengths and frequencies are utilized in carrying out the invention.

10 Definition of Terms

"Growth Rate (rate)" - This is obtained by taking the Klett units over time and calculating the doubling time for the culture. This is done by plotting the Klett unit number of each reading on the log scale of a semilog graph (wherein the y axis is the semi-log scale and the x axis is time). The slope (m) of the curve is then calculated using the following formula:

$$m = \frac{E_{xy} - \frac{E_{x}E_{y}}{N}}{E_{x}^{2} - \frac{(E_{x})^{2}}{N}}$$

wherein m is the slope, x is time, y is the semi-log, and N is the number of individual Klett readings.

"Klett units" - a unit of measurement of optical density employing a Klett-Summerson photoelectric colorimeter.

"LeeGs value (L)" is obtained by dividing the growth

25 rate of the test sample by the growth rate of the

control sample thus

$$L = \frac{G \text{ test}}{G \text{ cont}}$$

"Correlation (coor)" is calculated in accordance with following mathematical sequence:

$$corr = R = \frac{Ms_x}{s_y}$$

wherein s is the standard deviation of the x and y axes of the semi-log graph referred to in the definition of growth rate.

"Dev" is an abbreviation for the standard deviation between the control groups calculated in the following manner:

10
$$\operatorname{Dev} = \left(\frac{\operatorname{sum}(x^2) - \left[\operatorname{sum}(x)\right]^2}{N}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

wherein x is the value of the growth rate of each control group and n is the number of control groups.

"L-broth" - a growth medium consisting of 0.8% NaCl, 0.8% glucose and 0.7% bacto-tryptone, all percentages being weight to volume of tap water.

"Biosystem" - a system comprised of the organism disposed in a medium suitable for its normal growth.

"Hz" - abbreviation for hertz, a unit synonomous for cycle per second.

20 "KHz" - 1 kilohertz or 1000 hertz.

"ATCC" - American Type Culture Collection a depository for microorganisms located in Rockville, Maryland.

Example 1

An overnight exponential culture of prototropic E.

coli K-12 (Yale University depository number CGSC No. 4401) growing at 37°C, in L-broth was diluted with thermally equilibrated and sterilized L-broth to a density of 1×10^6 cells per milliliter. Portions of this culture were then randomly placed into 10 ml. glass test tubes made of the type glass specified for the colorimeter employed. Each test tube contained two platinum electrodes, spaced 4 centimeters apart, wired in series to a variable frequency generator and in parallel to an oscilliscope, and equipped with means 10 for oxygen input to the growth medium. The tubes containing the fractionated culture medium were maintained at constant temperature in a thermostatically controlled water bath and each subjected to an electro-15 motive (EmF) field. Temperature was monitored with a glass/mercury thermometer. Each tube was isolated from the field of the other tubes by brass screening. brass screening was grounded to totally eliminate any electrical transfer from one tube to the other. culture densities of each test tube were tested with a 20 Klett-Summerson photoelectric colorimeter by measuring, at 20-30 minute intervals over a 3 hour period, increasing optical absorbences at 660 nanometers. Controls were also run using cells that were inac-25 tivated by subjecting them momentarily to 60°C and quick cooling to 37°C. Each set of controls consisted of three test tubes which were measured at 10, 100 and 1000 hertz to establish the background of optical absorbence effects due to the electroplating of cells and growth medium components onto the electrodes and 30 also to ascertain any electrolytic effects that might be present. The EmF fields were produced by the variable frequency generator and monitored via the oscilliscope. The low energy fields were applied by

passage of alternating current through the growth medium between the platinum electrodes.

The results obtained with \underline{E} . \underline{coli} , following the above procedure are set forth in the following tables.

5 <u>Table 1</u> At 37°C, 1KHz, 10V.cm

time	0	20	40	60	80	rate	coor
con	37 37	39 41	42 45	48 58	52 53	0.37	

1.27

Table 2
At 34°C, 1KHz, 18V/cm

	time	0	30	60	rate	coor
15	conl con2 exp1 exp2	66 50 49 93	68 52 53 98	72 55 58 105	0.12 0.14 0.24 0.17	0.98 0.99 1.00

cont avg. = 0.13, dev = 0.01 L1 - 1.85, L2 - 1.31

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Table 3
At 37°C, 10KHz, 5V/cm

	time	00	30	60	rate	500
25	conl	65	76	88	0.44	1.00
	con2	65	78	89	0.46	1.00
	expl	71	84	99	0.48	1.00
	exp2	66	81	98	0.57	1.00

cont avg. = 0.45, dev = 0.01 L1 - 1.07, L2 - 1.27

. Table 4
At 37°C, power off

•	time	60	90	rate	coor
5	conl con2 expl exp2	88 89 99 98	107 108 112 112	0.56 0.56 0.36 0.39	1.00 1.00 1.00

cont avg. = 0.56, dev = 0.00L1 - 0.64, L2 - 0.70

10

Table 5

At 37°C, 1KHz, 5V/cm

	time	120	150	rate	coor
15	conl con2 expl exp2	141 130 137 135	154 148 151 151	0.25 0.37 0.28 0.32	1.00 1.00 1.00

cont avg. = 0.31, dev = 0.08L1 - 0.90, L2 - 1.03

Table 6

20

At 37°C, 1KHz, 5V/cm

	time	0	10	95	110	rate	coor
25	con1	62	64	91	94	0.34	1.00
	con2	58	61	89	95	0.42	1.00
	exp1	77	82	123	117	0.79	0.98
	exp2	64	68	94	95	0.65	0.99

cont avg. = 0.38, dev = 0.06 L1 - 2.08, L2 - 1.71

Table 7
At 36°C, 100Hz, 5V/cm

	time	0	30	60	rate	coor
5	conl	133	138	153	0.20	0.96
	con2	140	144	152	0.12	0.98
	expl	135	139	152	0.17	0.96
	exp2	144	149	159	0.14	0.98

cont avg. = 0.16, dev = 0.06L1 - 1.06, L2 - 0.88

10

Table 8

At 37°C, 1KHz, 10V/cm

	time	0	30	60	90	120	rate	coor
15	conl	120	135	153	174	200	0.36	1.00
	con2	132	141	158	179	200	0.30	1.00
	expl	128	141	164	185	200	0.34	1.00
	exp2	125	137	160	180	200	0.35	1.00

cont avg. = 0.33, dev = 0.04L1 - 1.03, L2 - 1.06

Table 9

20

At 34°C, 500Hz, 5V/cm

	time.	0	30	60	rate	coor
	conl	132	144	158	0.26	1.00
	con 2	. 129	145	155	0.27	0.99
	expl	121	136 ·	146 .	0.27	0.99
25	exp2	112	120	133	0.25	0.99

cont avg. = 0.27, dev = 0.01L1 = 1.00, L2 = 0.93

Table 10
At 40°C, 5KHz, 5V/cm

	time	0	30	90	rate	coor
5	conl	108	119	142	0.26	1.00
	con2	107	113	139	0.25	0.99
	exp1	107	121	140	0.26	0.99
	exp2	113	126	142	0.22	0.99

cont avg. = 0.26, dev = 0.01L1 = 1.00, L2 = 0.85

10

Table 11

At 37°C, 1KHz, 8V/cm

	time	0	30	60	90	120	rate	coor
15	conl	98	103	106	115	122	0.16	0.99
	con2	103	105	109	116	125	0.14	0.97
	expl	95	100	109	120	122	0.20	0.98
	exp2	95	102	115	118	120	0.18	0.95

cont avg. = 0.15, dev = 0.01L1 = 1.33, L2 = 1.20

Table 12

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At 37°C, 100Hz, 5V/cm

time	0	70	90	rate	coor
conl	107	127	129	0.19	0.99
con2	93	111	115	0.21	1.00
expt	95	116	113	0.19	0.94

25 cont avg. = 0.20, dev = 0.01, L = 0.95

Table 13
At 37°C, lKHz, 3V/cm

	<u>time</u>	0	70	90	rate	coor
5	con1	107	127	129	0.19	0.99
	con2	93	111	115	0.21	1.00
	expt	84	100	107	0.23	1.00

cont avg. = 0.20, dev = 0.01, L = 1.15

Table 14

At 37°C, 10KHz, 5V/cm

10	time	0	30	60	rate	coor
	conl	33	34	37	0.16	0.96
	con2	33	34	37	0.16	0.96
	expt	33	34	39	0.23	0.94

cont avg. = 0.16, dev = 0.00, L = 1.44

Table 15

15 At 37°C, lKHz, 4V/cm

time	0	30	60	rate	coor
conl	33	34	37	0.16	0.96
con2	33	34	37	0.16	0.96
expt	38	42	48	0.33	1.00

20 cont avg. = 0.16, dev = 0.00, L = 2.06

Table 16
At 35°C, lKHZ, 4V/cm

	time	0	30	60	90	120	rate	coor
5	conl	36	41	44	48	54	0.28	1.00
	con2	39	44	50	62	79	0.48	0.99
	expt	39	45	59	78	103	0.67	0.99

cont avg. = 0.38, dev = 0.14, L = 1.76

Table 17
At 34°C, lKHz, 2V/cm

conl 36 41 44 48 54 0.28 con2 39 44 50 62 79 0.48 expt 44 47 53 60 65 0.29	1.00 0.99 1.00

cont avg. = 0.38, dev = 0.14, L = 0.76

15

Table 18

At $37^{\circ}C$, .0Hz, 4V/cm

	time	00	30	60	85	rate	coor
	conl	42 .	43	44	42	0.01	0.18
	con2	37	38	39	34	-0.07	-0.46
20	expt	35	48	55	70	0.70	0.99

Table 19

lKHz, lV, 0.4% NaCl

	time	0	46	61	75 ·	rate	coor
				34	36	0.49	0.98
25	expt	23	31	36	42	0.66	0.99

(Power was inadvertently on on the control at lKHz., 0.5V until the time of the 46 minute reading, therefore the valid reading would start at that time. Starting

from 46 minutes the results turn out that the growth rate of the control turns out to be 0.45 gen/hr with a correlation of 0.99 and the rate of the experimental is 0.90 gen/hr with 1.00 correlation. This gives L=2.00 which corresponds with previous data.)

Table 20

Testing of 0.4 & 0.2% NaCl to show that the effect is not due to current.

lKHz., lV 10 time 0 30 60 70 80 90 rate coor 0.4% 20.0 22.0 25.0 27.5 29.5 32.0 0.43 0.98 • 0.2% 9.0 10.0 10.0 11.5 12.5 14.0 0.36 0.91 power off time 0 30 60 rate coor 15 0.4% 32.0 35.5 39.5 0.29 0.90 0.2% 14.0 15.0 17.0 0.28 0.99 1KHz., 1V time 0 10 20 30 rate coor 0.4% 39.5 42.5 47.5 49.0 0.66 0.98 20 0.2% 17.0 21.0 22.5 24.5 1.07 0.96 0.4% rate avg. = 0.54, div = 0.16, L = 1.860.2% rate avg. = 0.72, div, div = 0.50, L = 2.57

That mutagenesis was not implicated in the acceleration of growth rates for <u>E. coli</u> was demonstrated by presence of carbon dioxide evolution when a culture medium from Example 1 was added to a test tube containing lactose and mineral salts at the temperature of 43°c (Eijkmann-Durham Test for contaminants).

Example 2

The procedure of Example 1 was followed except that the microorganism was $\frac{\text{Bacillus}}{\text{Subtilus}}$ (ATCC 6051). The following results were obtained:

5	power	off	(control)	temp.	==	22c
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time	0	30	60	rate	coor
A	0.126	0.132	0.145	0.200	0.980
B	0.028	0.033	0.036	0.370	0.980

power lKHz, lV/cm

10	time	0	30	60	90	rate	coor
	A B	0.145 0.036	0.162 0.041	0.182 0.053	0.206 0.064	0.336 0.553	

A L = 1.68; B L = 1.50 L = 1.59

Example 3

The procedure of Example 1 was employed except that 2% Bacto yeast extract (Fleichman's fresh active yeast) was employed in place of <u>E. coli</u> and was grown at 25°C in an aqueous solution of 0.3% Bacto-Tryptone and 4.0% glucose (percentages are weight to volume water). The following results were obtained:

power off (control)

time	0	60	120	rate	coor
2 -	67 99	69 100	71.5 105	0.05 0.04	1.00 0.93
		lKHz.	, lV/cm		

time 0 60 120 180 rate coor 1 71.5 75 81 83 0.08 0.98 105 110 113 118 0.05 1.00

25

power off (control)

	time_	0	60)	rate	coor
•	ch-l ch-2	83 118	85 120	*	0.03	1.00
5			power 100 Hz	., lV/cm.		
	time_	0	60	100	rate	coor
	1 2	85 120	87.5 123	89 124	0.04 0.03	1.00
10		cont	ch-1 avg = 0 ch-2 avg = 0 ch-1 lKHz. =	.03, dev =	= 0.01	
			ch-2 1KHz. = L 1KHz. avech-1 100 Hz.	g = 1.84		
15		rate	ch-2 100 Hz.	= 0.03, I	5 = 1.00	

Example 4

This example demonstrates the efficacy of the process of the invention in accelerating plant growth rates.

- Glass or plastic containers containing soil and bean seeds (Bountiful Green Bush variety of Pinto) were configured for generation of low energy electrical fields in the following four modes:
- 1. parallel brass screens above and below the soil
 25 between which the beans are positioned without touching the screens
 - 2. one brass screen parallel to the side of the container with the seeds spaced apart therefrom with intervening soil in between the seeds and the screen
- 30 3. parallel wires in the horizontal plane of the bean seeds and spaced apart therefrom

4: one brass screen at the bottom of the container below the bean seeds.

Each container had from 4-8 bean seeds planted therein. All wires and screens were connected in series to an alternating current generator capable of producing multiple functions (e.g., sine or square waves). For each planted container connected to the generator there was a power-off control container of the same configuration. All other conditions were the same for

controls and test groups. To each test container were applied 22 volts (approximately 2.5 volts/cm.) at 1 KHz over a period of one week. At the end of the test period the test groups averaged about 8.5 inches in height, whereas the controls had just commenced to ger-

minate. The test group had significantly higher germination success than the controls. At comparable stages of development the test group was more vigorous in appearance than the controls and hence appeared to exhibit an increase in developmental success.

20 Example 5

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Into a glass container was added a brass screen upon which was placed fruit fly medium containing freshly laid eggs. On top of the medium was placed another screen which along with the screen on the bottom of the container, was connected in series with a variable frequency generator. To the test sample was applied a field of 1KHz, 22V (about 2.5 V/cm.); the control was a power off sample. The flies (Drosophila melanogaster) were then observed to eclosure (reaching of adulthood), and observed to show an earlier eclosure in the test sample than the control. The test sample also exhibited a greater hatching and eclosure success

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and also was more vigorous (i.e., observably significantly more active than the control.)

The foregoing examples demonstrate that 1000 Hz and 10,000 Hz are highly preferred effective frequencies for growth rate acceleration with widely differing species of organisms at field strengths, which can be expressed in terms of volts per centimeter, ranging upwards of from about 1 volt per centimeter to about 22 volts per centimeter at the expressed frequencies. However, positive growth rate acceleration can be achieved at selected frequencies ranging upwards from 10 Hz to about one megahertz (MH_2), the only practical limitation being that point at which mutagenesis occurs. A wide range of field strengths can be employed at each selected effective frequency with a concomitant threshold field strength below which no . effect occurs. Again practicality dictates that the upper limit for such field strengths is that point at which a measurable temperature increase occurs in the biosystem. Selection of these critical frequencies and

field strengths can routinely be accomplished by per-

field is applied across the biosystem, to which electrodes are applied selected frequencies at a set minimal field strength of lV/cm. Upon discovery of an effective frequency for growth rate increase, various field strengths are applied at the set effective frequency to determine the effective field strength

forming a simple series of tests as follows:

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range. With microorganisms it is recommended that the system be designed essentially as described in Example 1. With plant or animal species any one of the systems described in Example 4 can be utilized. If no effective frequency is found at 1 volt/cm., repeat procedure at 5 volts/cm. and at 5 volt increments thereafter until an effective growth rate increasing frequency is found or until a measureable temperature increase occurs in the biosystem using a standard glass mercury thermometer.

Increase of growth rates while improving developmental success and vitality of some organisms in accordance with this invention has important commercial implications for industrial fermentation, as well as, agricultural and pharmaceutical production industries.

Improved yields and increased production capacities are direct advantages. Shorter organism growth cycle could open new vistas in diagnostic medicine as well as other areas of medicine such as bone marrow regeneration, organ regeneration, tissue revitilization and the like.

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What is claimed is:

- A method of increasing the growth rate of a living organism which comprises disposing the organism in a growth medium and subjecting the organism to a low energy electrical field produced by a combined field strength and frequency effective for increasing the growth rate of said organism.
- The method of claim 1 wherein said field strength is above about 1 volt per centimeter and said frequency is selected from about 10 to about 106 Hz.
 - 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said organism is a microorganism or plant or animal.
- 4. The method of claim 3 wherein said voltage is above about 1 volt per centimeter and said frequency is selected from about 1000 Hz and about 10,000 Hz and the resulting electrical field does not increase the temperature of the medium.
- 5. The method of claim 3 wherein said voltage is selected from above about 1 volt per centimeter to about 22 volts per centimeter and said frequency is about 1000 Hz or about 10,000 Hz.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application NoPCT/US 86/02271

Accordin	SIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several cla	ssification symbols apply, Indicate all) 3	
TPC"(4): CI2N IS/00; AOIG 7/04; A	allonal Classification and IPC	
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	(A CONTROLLED ON DE LE	-
ISA/US		David M. Naff	
n PCT/ISA	/210 (second sheet) (October 1981)		

FURTHE	R INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET	PC1/US 80/UZZ/1
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$\frac{X}{Y}$	DE, A, 2841455 (GERTH) 10 April	1 2
.Y	1980, see translated abstract.	$\frac{1}{2} \frac{3}{4} =$
,	•	2,4,5
A	SU, A, 745939, 17 July 1980, see	
	translated abstract.	
A	110	
^	US, A, 2,492128 (SHROPSHIRE), 20	
	December 1949, see entire document.	
		}
		1
		1
V. OBS	ERVATIONS WHERE CERTAIN CLAIMS WERE TOWN	
	ERVATIONS WHERE CERTAIN CLAIMS WERE FOUND UNSEARCHABLE 10	
inis intern	ational search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 1	7(2) (a) for the following reasons:
1. Clain	numbers, because they relate to subject matter 12 not required to be searched by	y this Authority, namely:
	•	
٠		
2. Claim ments	numbers, because they relate to parts of the international application that do not to such an extent that no meaningful international sparch can be carried out 13, specifical	comply with the prescribed require-
	security and the meaningful international sparch can be carried out 13, specifical	lly:
VI. OBS	ERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING 11	
This Interna	ional Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application as fol	
	as fol	lows:
		:
1- As all i	equired additional search fees were timely pald by the applicant, this international search r nternational application.	BBOTT COVERS all searchable claims
_	•	
L As one those c	some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this internal saims of the international application for which fees were paid, specifically claims:	national search report covers only
	the state of the s	-
	·	
3. No requ	ired additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international first mentioned in the claims: it is covered by claim a true bases	and according to
the inve	ntion first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claim numbers:	onal search report is restricted to
	•	
As all so invite pa	archable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Internat yment of any additional fee.	ional Searching Authority did not
Remark on Pr	otest	
No prot	itional search fees were accompanied by applicant's protest. est accompanied the payment of additional search fees.	İ
	ecompanied the payment of additional search fees.	i

III. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHE	<u>/US 86/02271</u>
Category • j	Citation of Document, 16 with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 11	
i	passages	Relevant to Claim No
A :	US, A, 3,871,961 (GIANESSI), 18 March 1975, see entire document.	
A :	US, A, 4,487,834 (BRIGHTON), 11 December 1984, see entire document.	· : !
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